

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder,

wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substance to the negative electrode and/or electrolyte, said substance being soluble in the electrolyte, said substance being at least one member selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal chloride is a cobalt chloride ~~and/or~~ and a nickel chloride; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

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5. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:  
a positive electrode;  
a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and  
a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder,  
wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy  
oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on  
said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substance to  
the negative electrode and/or the electrolyte, said substance being soluble in the  
electrolyte, said substance being at least one member selected from the group consisting  
of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said  
~~metal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or~~ and a nickel iodide; and  
the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder  
is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

6. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:  
a positive electrode;  
a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and  
a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder,  
wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy  
oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on  
said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substance to  
the negative electrode and/or the electrolyte, said substance being soluble in the

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electrolyte, said substance being at least one member selected from the group consisting of a ~~metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide~~, wherein said ~~metal sulfide is a~~ cobalt sulfide ~~and/or~~ and a nickel sulfide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

7. (Previously Presented): The metal hydride alkaline storage cell of claim 4, 5, or 6 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

8-17. (Canceled)